

A contemporary perspective

[By John Ireland PSM]

Reflecting on the AFP's achievements since the article on the previous pages was published, one can only admire the wisdom of the Governments and individuals involved in the creation and subsequent command of the AFP.

The AFP's ongoing professionalism has gone a long way in elevating its profile with the Australian Government. The AFP has become, aside from its other law enforcement duties, a leader in countering terrorist threats against Australia and its allies.

The completion of the integration of Australian Protective Service personnel into the AFP this year has added to the growing strength of the AFP in the 21st century by enabling close coordination of the emerging role of dealing with criminal threats against Australia and Australians at home and abroad.

For those who may wish to reflect on why the protective security

function was separated from the AFP some 20 years ago, one must understand that without that separation both organisations may not have achieved their respective level of skill to allow the contribution that both are now able to make as an integrated unit.

Having worked closely with Sir Robert Mark and Sir Colin Woods during the formation of the AFP I believe they would forgive me if I was to commend and congratulate on their behalf all who have been associated with the AFP over the past 25 years for achieving the vision contained in the first Ministerial Directive which was "the creation of a first class police organisation imbued with integrity."



Current and former AFP personnel gathered at the AFP College on 10 June to wish John Ireland (centre) and his wife Margaret (in pink) all the best in retirement. John Ireland has seen senior executive service with the AFP since it began in 1979.